

REMARKS

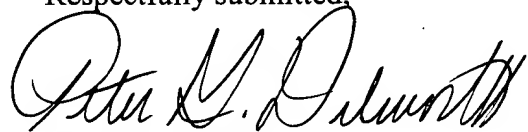
Claims 1-67 are pending in the application. We are pleased to inform you that Claims 1-10, 19, 22-29, 48-54, 56 and 67 have been allowed. We are also pleased to inform you that Claims 12-15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 31-34, 37-42, 44, 46, 47, 55 and 57-66 have been objected to as containing informalities or as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner has rejected Claims 11, 16, 30, 35, 36, 43 and 45 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bottomley et al. (U.S. Patent 5,550,809).

Please cancel Claims 11-18, 20, 21, 30-47 and 57-66, without prejudice.

As all of the remaining claims, namely Claims 1-10, 19, 22-29, 48-56 and 67, have been allowed, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the application.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1-10, 19, 22-29, 48-56 and 67, are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter G. Dilworth", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter G. Dilworth
Reg. No. 26,450
Attorney for Applicant

DILWORTH & BARRESE
333 Earle Ovington Blvd.
Uniondale, New York 11553
Tel: (516) 228-8484
Fax: (516) 228-8516

PGD/MJM/dr